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MK NEWS

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Now the big chill brings heavy snow to the city

PICTURE SPECIAL **PAGE 7**

Win a New Year's Eve meal for four

SEE **PAGE 16**

Like all of us at MK NEWS, stars from MK Theatre's Dick Whittington are raising a glass to wish all panto-goers, along with readers and advertisers, a very merry Christmas. With just three sleeps to go your MK NEWS team is gearing up for the big day. But while we are tucking into our turkey we will be keeping one eye on what's going on in the city, so we can bring you up to date with all the news and sport from the festive period on Thursday next week.

Rubbish mountain looms as binmen ballot on pay

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

INDUSTRIAL action, snow and a Christmas break could mean a big delay in collecting your rubbish.

A reduced service has been running since Monday because of the snow.

After Christmas Eve there will be no collections until next Wednesday, and the service also stops for New Year and the bank holiday, meaning workers will need to work overtime on Saturdays to catch up.

But 150 Serco refuse collectors are currently being balloted about industrial action over a pay dispute, with the result expected on Christmas Eve. The dispute is over an offer of a 1.5 per cent pay rise.

Workers have put in a two per cent claim, and union GMB said a 'yes' vote would affect Christmas bin collections.

GMB organiser Alan Costello said: "We will be three or four days behind before Christmas and potentially we're going to be six or seven days behind on refuse collection.

"It's a simple trade dispute over pay that's been going on since about August time. We are balloting the members at the moment, expecting the result on Friday."

A 'yes' vote will mean a continuous overtime ban, including Saturdays, from the New Year, further postponing collections.

A Serco spokesman said the company will do all it can to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum.

He said: "Serco and MK Council can confirm that the refuse, recycling and street cleansing staff on the environmental services contract, have rejected Serco's pay offer and are currently being balloted by their union.

"Serco's offer is above current market conditions and exceeds many recent public and private sector pay settlements. We are confident that our proposed pay increase represents a fair offer to the team and would urge them not to take action."

In the meantime, the council said it is working to ensure the collections reach as many estates as possible during the bad weather.

A council spokesman said: "We are currently operating a reduced service on recycling, food and garden waste, concentrating on main routes that have been treated and are accessible.

"We would ask that residents continue to put their recycling out on the normal day. We can assure residents that we are doing all that we can to maintain collections."

City post delays are down to 'modernisation'

POSTAL deliveries are back to normal after some residents complained they received no mail for a week.

People whose post is delivered through Royal Mail's delivery office in Brinklow, recently experienced problems, with some residents saying second-class mail was taking six days to be delivered.

One Middleton resident said: "I understand Royal Mail are busy at this time of year, but to not get mail for a week and for it to have been erratic since isn't acceptable."

Royal Mail said any disruptions are as a result of modernisation at the office, but operations are now back to normal.

A spokesman said: "As part of Royal Mail's £2billion investment in modernising its operations across the country, changes are being made at Brinklow delivery office.

"When any such major change is implemented, some disruption is possible as we adjust to new ways of working.

"The new practices are now running smoothly and we apologise to customers for any inconvenience that may have been caused previously."

Commenting on the bad weather, the spokesman added: "The authorities are doing all they can to keep major roads clear but major routes, together with rail and air services across the UK, have been significantly impacted by heavy snowfalls in the last few days. This disruption has had an impact on Royal Mail, along with many other delivery providers."

■ If anybody believes they are experiencing a problem independent of the changes, they should contact Royal Mail on 08457 740 740.

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A firefighter enters the flat on Boundary Crescent, Stony Stratford, where a man died in a fire

Man, 40, perishes in first-floor flat blaze

A 40-YEAR-OLD man died in a flat fire on Monday morning.

Firefighters were called to the first-floor flat in Boundary Crescent, Stony Stratford at about 1.30am.

The man was discovered in the back bedroom after the fire spread to the flat below and the occupant raised the alarm.

An inquest will be opened tomorrow into the death of the man, who has not yet been formally identified.

The cause of the fire, although unknown, is not thought to be suspicious.

Firefighters, from Great Holm, Newport Pagnell and Bletchley, wearing breathing apparatus used two hose reels to put out the fire and prevent it from spreading into the roof and along the terrace.

Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service area manager Darryl Keen said: "This was a tragic incident, and our thoughts go out to the man's family and friends and the local community. An investigation has begun into the cause of the fire."

Armed robbers raid Tesco store

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

ARMED robbers stormed a Tesco Express, stealing money and cigarettes.

Three men entered the store in Holst Crescent, Old Farm Park, at about 10.40pm on Thursday, one carrying what appeared to be a handgun, and one of the other two was carrying a knife.

The offenders threatened a female cashier and demanded she hand over money and cigarettes. They ran from the store with the contents of one till and some cigarettes, the value of which is not yet known.

All three offenders are black. The offender carrying the gun was wearing a grey hooded top and a black and white scarf over the bottom half of his face.

The second offender was wearing a black woollen hat, a black scarf covering his face, a black waist-length jacket and a light green top underneath.

The third offender was wearing a black hooded puffa-style jacket and a dark blue pair of jeans.

DC Tom Belcher, leading the investigation, said: "Fortunately no one was hurt during the robbery but the cashier and a second member of staff were shaken by the incident.

"We would really like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident or saw people matching the descriptions in the area shortly before or after the offence.

"I would like to reassure people that offences like this are very rare in Milton Keynes and we are following up a number of leads to catch the people responsible. Any help the public can give us to identify these offenders would be appreciated."

■ If you have any information, contact DC Belcher on 0845 8 505 505. If you do not want to speak to the police, call the Crimestoppers charity, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Unemployment 3.5 per cent despite fall

THE number of people unemployed in the city has fallen.

According to Government figures, there were 5,567 people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance in November. This has fallen slightly since October when there were 5,741 claimants.

But in comparison to neighbouring Bucks CC, which has a population of roughly twice that of Milton Keynes, only 1.8 per cent are unemployed whereas Milton Keynes has 3.5 per cent.

Of those claiming, nearly 4,000 were men and 3,335 were between the ages of 25-49. and more than 1,200 people had been claiming for more than a year.

Employment Minister Chris Grayling said: "These figures highlight the crucial importance of the action we are taking to keep the economy moving forward.

"It's essential to create a stable environment where businesses can flourish and create jobs with those on benefits at the front of the queue to take them up.

"That's why we are increasing the support available to people through both Jobcentre Plus and our new Work Programme."

Fire-damaged city bridge may fall to new development

BY ADAM GRINSELL
adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A DESTRUCTIVE fire on a city centre bridge may be good news for the development of the area.

Earlier this year engineers from Milton Keynes Council confirmed the Secklow Gate road bridge, that links Silbury Boulevard to Midsummer Boulevard, needed structural repairs following a fire last January in the market place below.

Cracks had appeared in the bridge, so engineers put heavy-duty props in place to make sure that it was safe and posed no risk to the public.

But after recent independent risk assessment surveys, it has emerged the damage to the bridge might create an opportunity to move forward development plans for the area.

The council's Development Framework shows an intention for the bridge to be removed, which will create opportunities for additional development linked to thecentre:mk.

There are also ambitions to improve traffic flow, especially for buses, and other improvements to benefit residents.

This means a range of options for dealing with the bridge are being put on hold while talks go on with developers to see if an appropriate development can be progressed. Discussions will continue next year.

Transport boss Cllr Vanessa McPake said: "It seems only sensible to delay spending more than £500,000 on repairs to the bridge while there is any chance that potential development might mean the money is wasted."

Smoke and flames billow from the market blaze that damaged the Secklow Gate bridge

Fullers Slade man jailed for rapes and child sex assaults

A MAN who pleaded guilty to 53 serious sexual offences against children has been jailed indeterminately.

The offender, 49, from the Fullers Slade area, cannot be named for legal reasons.

He pleaded guilty to 36 counts of rape, seven indecent assaults, three sexual assaults with a child or family member, two counts of sex with an adult or relative and five counts of indecency with a child. The offences were committed by him over the last nine years, on four girls who were under 16-years-old when the offences started.

He was given an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection (IPP), at Huntingdon Crown Court on Friday, with a minimum of six years and 102 days.

The IPP means after his minimum sentence is served, he does not have an automatic right to be released. He will only be considered for release if he can prove he is no longer a risk to the public.

He will also be on strict licence conditions for life and will be on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

Don't miss the bus over the holidays

MAKE sure to check bus times and routes before heading out and about over Christmas and New Year.

Thursday, December 23 and Christmas Eve
Friday, December 24
Normal service on Thursday, and an early finish on all routes at around 8pm on Friday.

Christmas Day
Saturday, December 25
No service.

Boxing Day
Sunday, December 26
No service, except special service on routes 4 (Central Milton Keynes to Bletchley only), 5 (Central Milton Keynes to Bletchley to Lakes estate only), and 300 (Central Milton Keynes to Coachway/Park and Ride to Kingston).

Monday, December 27 and Tuesday, December 28
Sunday service.

Wednesday, December 29 and Thursday, December 30
Saturday service, except for route 300 which will operate a normal Wednesday and Thursday service. Routes 43 and 80 will operate Wednesday, December 29 only, and route 42 will operate Thursday, December 30 only.

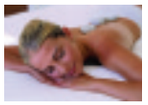
New Year's Eve
Friday, December 31
Saturday service, with early finish on all routes by around 8pm, except for route 300 which will operate a normal Friday service with an early finish. Routes 42, 43, and 80 will not operate.

New Year's Day
Saturday, January 1
Sunday service, except for routes 150, P1, X4, X5, and Stagecoach 99 which will not operate.

Sunday, January 2 and Monday, January 3
Sunday service.

Tuesday, January 4
Normal service resumes.

For details of last buses on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and special Boxing Day services, please contact Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.



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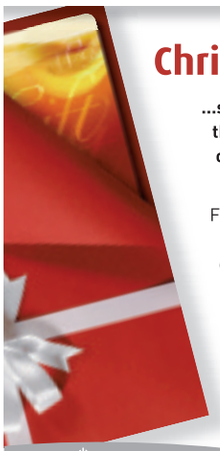

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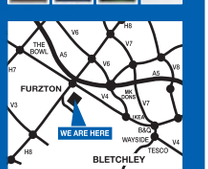

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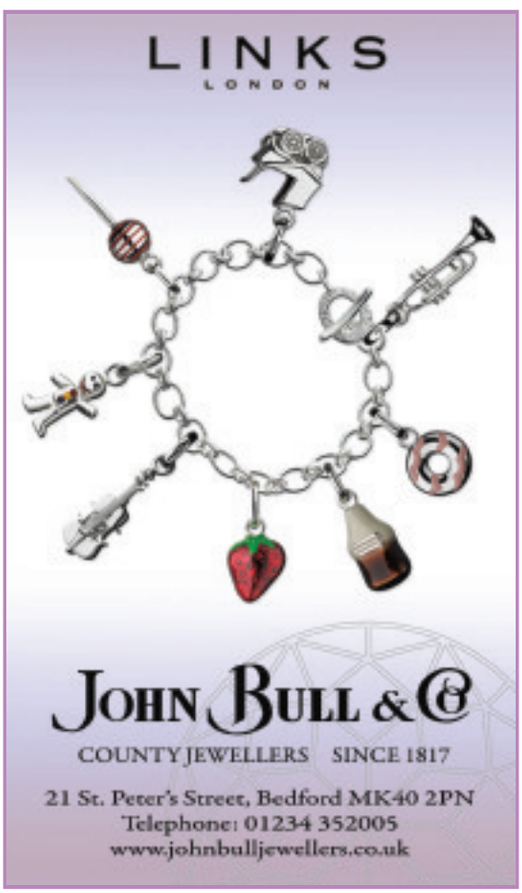

MK LETTERS

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Bad decision to close a valued community facility

SIR – I write to protest about the council being 'minded' to close down Stony Stratford library.

This would be a bad decision.

Stony library is a valued facility for the local community for people of all ages.

Clearly, its purpose is the distribution of books but it also acts as a cultural and community focus by virtue of the 'reading group' and other activities that are based there.

Further, Stony Stratford Town Council's office is located within the library premises and this extends the community role of the library.

In terms of contributing to the vitality of the local community – promoting localism – retaining the library is essential.

Eventually Stony library will serve the new Area 11 expansion development adjacent to Watling Street as no new library is proposed for it.

Area 11 represents about 5,000 residents – ie another Stony Stratford – who will look to Stony Stratford for library services.

Thus, while the eventual demand for Stony library will double, our council is proposing to remove it.

Does this make sense?

If ever there was a facility that needed to be maintained it would be the library.

I am aware of the budget constraints that the council is currently subject to but central Government says that the economic 'crunch' is only a temporary problem. What is needed is 'bridging' funding to maintain the service for the short-term – unless the council has a hidden agenda to totally get rid of the library.

But there is a solution.

The additional income now being generated by the new increased car parking charges represents council income growth.

This extra income, which needs to be spent on 'transport', can release a similar sum that formerly would have come from general council funding thus giving greater 'spend' flexibility within the overall budget for things like libraries.

Cutting the library service thus becomes only an option and not an unavoidable decision.

I don't want to hear the phrase 'there is no other alternative'. This is never the case.

The council needs to take its long-term community planning more seriously, be more financially creative and thereby keep Stony library going.

M O'Sullivan
Stony Stratford

■ SIR – Re Stony Stratford library – every alternate Wednesday afternoon my husband phones our two grand-daughters: "Grandad is going to the library girls, are you ready to change your books?"

Squeals of delight and over they come.

Two little girls, Charlotte, eight, and Megan, seven, come running up the drive smiling and laughing: "We are going to the library with Grandad, I want more Enid Blyton, I want more . . ."

They have a house full of books, two parents who read with them, a little brother Harry who loves books that the girls take home to read to him.

But they still love the library. That's just one family. How many more have that thrill with children?

How many more use the library for information?

How many more just get a good read on a lonely night?

How many more need research facilities? How many more just drop in to read the paper and have some company?

AND YOU WANT TO CLOSE IT?

Cllr Hilary Coley
Fullers Slade

City status for the birds

SIR – Milton Keynes has no right to be a city.

It's just an amorphous mass of housing estates (and light industry) infilling between the ancient communities of Fenny and Stony Stratford (Roman Watling Street) and the rather newer towns of Bletchley, Wolverton and Newport Pagnell.

Furthermore, the powers-that-be continue to inflict upon us residents the removal of all natural growth, almost to ground level, from around children's play areas, the sides of many grid roads and from the centres of our notorious roundabouts.

One result of this policy is that I, relatively housebound, no longer have any REAL variety of birds feeding on my bird table or having a splash in my bird bath.

I seriously forecast that my contribution to the annual RSPB national census next month will be that NO birds came to my garden during the designated hour.

Mr J L Lean
Greenleys

Council vanity trip

SIR – I make a conscious effort not to call Milton Keynes a city for the same reason I do not refer to my car as a four-wheel drive – because it ain't.

I sincerely hope we do not acquire city status as this will allow the council to embark on an extravagant, costly vanity trip, changing everything it can lay its hands on to include the word 'city'.

I do not believe most residents of Milton Keynes care if we are called a city, borough, or never-never land.

Brian Johnson
Sent by e-mail

Don't wave my flag

SIR – I have just seen the article on the recent protest outside The Plough in Bletchley organised by the BNP and I have to say that I am incensed at the abuse of my national flag.

The BNP organiser said: "About 60 per cent of the demonstration were actually angry residents."

This means that 40 per cent were BNP supporters brought in for the event, complete with a number of St George's flags plus a Welsh and a Scottish flag.

I accept that the local residents may well have good reasons to oppose the mosque which will certainly generate extra traffic and probably result in parking problems at certain times. The same would be true if it was planned to turn the pub into a church or synagogue or any other purpose that would generate the same number of regular visitors as the mosque will.

This is a local planning issue which has nothing to do with national politics and there is absolutely no reason for the large number of national flags.

I am proud to be a white English Christian and have no wish to be associated with the actions of the BNP and their followers.

There are many muslims in this country and they have as much right to worship in their own way as any other religion in a free country.

The suitability of this location should be decided purely on the grounds of the effect it will have on the area and not on the religion or race of the users.

Name and address supplied

New universities to suffer

SIR – The Lib Dem-Conservative coalition government managed to pass the bill in the House of Commons to increase the university students fees from £3,000 to £9,000-a-year.

There is already a split among the Lib Dem members in the House of Commons.

Most of the Lib Dem back benchers voted against the proposed increase in fees since they felt that they were elected on the basis of an election manifesto which included the abolition of university tuition fees.

More than a third of England's universities may be forced to close or merge as a result of cuts to higher education.

Vince Cable, the business secretary, admitted last month that 'a lot of universities are effectively broke'.

It appears that most of the institutions that would be affected are new polytechnic universities.

I wonder whether the new universities in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire will also suffer by the drastic cut in funding of higher education.

Arun Vaidyanathan
Sent by e-mail

Houses should top list

SIR – When cuts are being made and money being stopped, travellers' sites should be bottom of the list.

Build houses for people who want to make a life in Milton Keynes. This should be priority – not travellers.

Angela May
Sent by e-mail

Twin perks

SIR – I was delighted to read about the possibility of MK being twinned with other countries.

I fully backed Milton Keynes' part in England's 2018 World Cup bid and, like the rest of the nation, am disappointed the tournament is going to Russia.

However, this news proves the efforts of the bid team were not wasted.

If MK pulls this off we should all be proud of our city.

J Richards
Sent by e-mail

TELL US YOUR VIEWS

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE with the stories in the paper or have you a view on an MK subject you want heard?

Letters must arrive by noon on Monday, include your full name and address and should be kept short, to the point and may be edited.

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Young patient Harry McGlynn takes on MK Dons stars Luke Chadwick and Tom Flanagan

Dons stars bring cheer to hospital children's ward

MK Dons provided some festive cheer at Milton Keynes General Hospital when the management and players delivered Christmas presents to the children's ward.

The Dons continued their festive tradition of dipping into their own pockets to buy gifts for the young patients and also a number of portable DVD players for the ward.

Manager Karl Robinson, his assistant John Gorman and 16 players visited the youngsters and parents on the ward.

It was an opportunity for young fans who face time in hospital over the festive holiday to meet, chat and get signatures from the football stars.

Some players including Luke Chadwick, possibly frustrated by the lack of games on the pitch in recent weeks, shared a game of table football and even used a special orange winter ball.

Vice captain Aaron Wilbraham said: "Visits like this always put the problems of footballers into perspective; you've only got to spend five minutes in the ward to remember what's important in life.

"Our contribution is a small one – the staff on the ward will be working long hours over Christmas making sure the kids are being well looked after, so they deserve a massive amount of credit."

'Pothole payment' rise to stay on tax

BY ADAM GRINSELL

adam.grinsell@mk-news.co.uk

A 'DEVIOUS' increase will remain part of the city's council tax if it is frozen next year.

A freeze would include an extra 0.5 per cent rise, equating to around £450,000, that was added on to 2010's 1.5 per cent tax increase in March in order to pay for the repair of potholes following the harsh winter.

At the time, Conservative opposition leader Cllr Andrew Geary was angered at the increase, saying the council's reserves should have been used to address the one-off problem rather than a rise in council tax, saying: "This is either ignorance or a very devious way of increasing the base budget over a number of years."

He still stands by this statement, saying: "You can't raise one-off monies by raising council tax because you raise it every year.

"If they had wanted to spend £450,000 that's fine, but you don't raise council tax. The only way you do that is by lowering it again.

"It had to be done and we had to repair the roads, but it was the way it was done, the devious way it was done and, as I said to cabinet, this wasn't the way to do it."

Lib Dem finance councillor Sam Crooks said there is no issue, as £31million has been saved in the budget proposals and if the £450,000 was not part of the tax it would have to be found elsewhere.

He said: "Money is money, if you don't have it, you have to find it somewhere. The cost of everything has gone up by three or four per cent, and we are absorbing that because we haven't raised that in tax."

Council tax is likely to be frozen in order to take advantage of a Government initiative to provide funds equal to a 2.5 per cent rise.

■ TASKED with saving around £25million next year, the council has released its budget proposals for 2011/2012.

Following a month-long public consultation it will be voted on by council on February 22. If agreed, the following will be enforced:

■ Stony Stratford and Woburn Sands libraries would close, and opening hours across all libraries would be reduced by an average of two hours a week.

■ All grid road lighting would be switched off except on junctions and roundabouts.

■ Senior bus pass usage would be restricted to off-peak journeys and a planned extension of concessions to people aged 19 and under and not in full-time education could be scrapped.

■ Council subsidies to bus routes with low passenger take-up would end, and the Christmas park and ride service between The Bowl and Campbell Park via CMK would finish.

■ The young persons' advice service Connexions would be restructured 'to focus on the most vulnerable rather than being available to everyone of the relevant age'.

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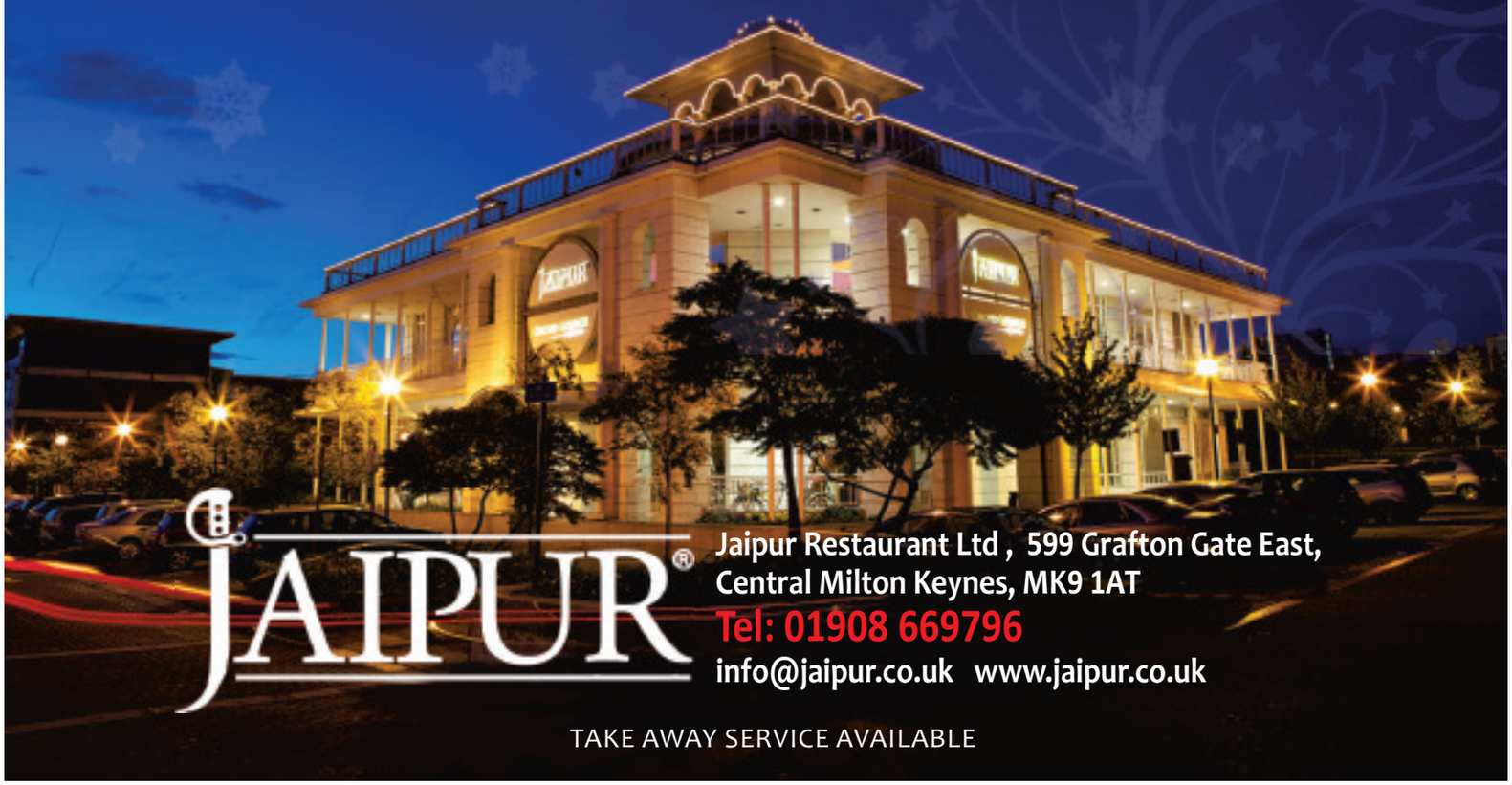

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A couple of youngsters get a ride at Furzon Lake

Snow, snow, quick, quick – slow

The M1 motorway grinds to a halt on Saturday night

TO some, it represents endless opportunities for fun and adventure.

To others, it signals the start of long journeys, closures, wet feet and cold hands.

Snow blanketed this city at the weekend, following a heavy dump of the stuff on Saturday, decreasing the odds of a white Christmas but increasing the blood pressure of Monday morning commuters.

Hundreds of keen tobogganists hit the slopes at Campbell Park while others huddled inside instead of braving the cold.

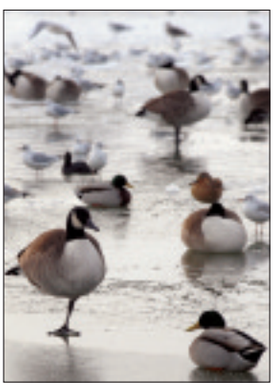
And for those worried about the roads, the council has a few reassuring words: "The gritting team are working around the clock to keep major roads as clear as possible.

"As grit can freeze below minus eight degrees, which reduces its effectiveness, snow ploughs are also being used to manually clear roads. The overnight road temperature reached minus 13 degrees this week."

Taking a tumble in Campbell Park

Redway turns white at Abbey Hill

A robin sits out the freeze



Too cold for two feet on Willen Lake

Snow ploughs on the H3 Monks Way

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Dealers jailed for importing cocaine

THREE men were jailed for a total of 28 years last Wednesday for importing drugs, after a successful police operation.

Fanah Adan, 36, of Bicton Chase, Broughton, was sent down for 11 years after pleading guilty to importing class A drugs, including cocaine, plus supplying crack cocaine and possessing crack cocaine with intent to supply.

Cabdulrahman Hashim, 38, of Shakleton Place, Oldbrook, was jailed for 11 years after pleading guilty to importing class A drugs, including cocaine, and possessing heroin with intent to supply.

The third man, Masood Shasky, 38, is a Canadian national who was arrested at Heathrow Airport on June 6, and was found to have swallowed 1.37 kg of cocaine.

He was jailed for six years after pleading guilty to importing class A drugs, including cocaine.

The result comes after a lengthy and complex investigation into the importation of class A drugs by Thames Valley Police Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), with the assistance of the UK Borders Agency (UKBA).

Adan and Hashim were arrested by officers from SOCU at Heathrow Airport on June 6 where they were awaiting the arrival of Shasky who was arrested by UKBA officers, having entered the country after swallowing the cocaine.

Fanah Adan from Broughton: Jailed for 11 years

Cabdulrahman Hashim from Oldbrook: Jailed for 11 years

Acting DI Rachel Turner, from the SOCU, said: "This was a complex operation which involved these three men regularly importing class A drugs into the country.

"As a result of this operation, three determined drug dealers and the drugs they were planning to sell have been removed from the streets.

"All three have been given substantial prison sentences and other criminals should be aware that the SOCU are dedicated to targeting drug dealers and they run the risk of losing their freedom for a long period of time."

Recyclers win bumper prizes as Cash for Trash scheme bows out

CASH for Trash, Milton Keynes Council's recycling incentive scheme, has come to an end with a whole week of bumper prize-giving just in time for Christmas.

From December 13-17 lucky residents, randomly chosen by computer, won a selection of worthy prizes just for putting out their recycling.

Winners were:

Monday
Annette Furness in Olney won £200 donated by Community Waste

Tuesday
Mr Hopcroft in Neath Hill won £100 in John Lewis vouchers and a family ticket to see Dick Whittington donated by Milton Keynes Theatre

Wednesday
Margaret Blow of Furzton won £200 donated by Community Waste

Thursday
Sheila and Charles Shackel of Bletchley won £200 in Love2shop vouchers donated by Serco

Friday
Nigel Green of Wolverton won £200 in Love2shop vouchers donated by Serco

Since it began in June 2007 Cash for Trash has rewarded around 340 lucky residents from all over the borough for simply recycling the correct materials and leaving their pink sacks, blue boxes and green bins out on their property boundary.

As 2010 draws to a close this MK News-backed scheme is coming to an end and organisers are considering other ways of encouraging recycling in areas which need a little extra help.

Cllr Mike Galloway, responsible for the environment, said: "With our recycling rate set to reach around 57 per cent next spring, we'd like to thank all our residents for their continued efforts in recycling and congratulate all the lucky Cash for Trash prize-winners over the past three-and-a-half years."

Sincere thanks go to regular weekly sponsors Community Waste from the Wolverton recycling facility and Serco, the council's refuse and recycling contractor.

Thanks also go to seasonal sponsors John Lewis and Milton Keynes Theatre for their donations.

Sheila and Charles Shackel of Bletchley

Nigel Green of Wolverton

Mr Hopcroft of Neath Hill with his daughter

Annette Furness of Olney

Margaret Blow of Furzton

Cash for Trash

More chances to win money each week. £100 could be yours just for recycling.

Serco, who collect MK's recycling, have pledged £100 worth of Love2shop vouchers per week in addition to the £100 provided by Community Waste Ltd. With two £100 prizes up for grabs each week, there's no excuse not to recycle!

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cashfortrash

recycle for Milton Keynes serco Supported by MKNEWS MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Speaker Bercow praises pupils

THE Speaker of the House of Commons and MP for Buckingham, John Bercow, attended assembly at High Ash Primary School in Great Brickhill to thank pupils for various achievements including raising £4,327 for the NSPCC and ChildLine during the last year.

The school produced the impressive tally by taking part in the Buddy Multiple Marathon (a sponsored maths activity), and organising events such as a monthly 'treat' stall, a Christmas and summer production and a summer fete.

Steph Morgan-Jones, NSPCC schools manager, said: "The pupils have done an outstanding job with their fundraising to help vulnerable children all over the UK."

Mr Bercow also congratulated the pupils on their achievement of their Arts Mark Gold award, Science Silver Quality Mark and the re-accreditation of their Challenge Award.

John Bercow at High Ash School in Great Brickhill at the NSPCC cheque handover

Don't put on pounds

IF you want to enjoy your Christmas food without adding to your waistline, follow these simple NHS tips.

'Grazing' can be the biggest trap at parties. Nibbling peanuts, crisps and the odd chocolate might not seem much, but the calories can soon add up. Put a small amount in a bowl, so you can keep an eye on how much you're eating.

Try to eat a healthy meal before going out to a party, so you're less tempted by any snacks. If you're at a buffet, use a small plate and try to make sure you get a little bit of everything to make a proper balanced meal.

Make sure you eat plenty of fruit. The vitamin C in festive fruits such as clementines and satsumas will help you keep those pesky colds away.

Try to alternate an alcoholic drink with a non-alcoholic one. Water is best, but a diet soft drink is also fine. Alcohol contains more calories than you may realise, plus drinking less means you're less likely to wake up with a headache the next morning. Most importantly of course, never drink and drive.

The weather has been freezing lately, which means we can be less inclined to get outside and get some exercise. A brisk walk will help you burn off some of those extra calories and make you feel more energised too. Make sure you wrap up warm and take extra care if conditions are icy.

Sue Frossell, consultant in public health, said: "We all enjoy having treats at Christmas. Just make sure you enjoy festive fare in moderation. Your waistline will thank you for it and an extra bonus is you won't need to punish yourself in the New Year."

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Bletchley mosque decision delayed

THE decision on whether to convert a former Bletchley bikers' bar into a mosque has been postponed pending further consultation.

An application has been made to convert the disused Plough pub, on Manor Road, Bletchley, into a mosque and community hall, to ease the burden on the current Duncombe Road building.

At a council planning meeting on Thursday, some committee members were unhappy that the proposed 48 parking spaces would be insufficient to cope with the number of potential visitors to the mosque.

That is despite planning officers having placed a maximum capacity of 200 people on the application.

Following objections from nearby residents that parked cars would overspill onto the streets, councillors decided to defer making the decision until more evidence had been gathered through a parking and traffic impact assessment.

There will also be checks to determine the effect on the surrounding area, although this was not originally conducted as officers suggested the size of the development did not warrant such an assessment.

Objectors to the plan also raised concerns about potential future development and expansion of the site, but they were assured any more development would require further planning applications in the future.

Earlier this month, a British National Party-led demonstration outside the pub attracted around 100 people, and around 300 signatures were gathered for a petition against the conversion.

Bid to buy code-cracker's papers

THE Prime Minister has pledged to help return a unique collection to Bletchley Park thanks to a city MP.

During Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday, Iain Stewart asked David Cameron to support the home of the code-breakers in acquiring the personal papers of Enigma code-cracker Alan Turing.

The MP for Milton Keynes South informed the PM that Bletchley Park was confident of raising funds to buy the papers but stood a risk of losing out on the purchase as the auction could take place before its fundraising target was achieved.

He asked if the PM would do all he can to give Bletchley Park a fair chance to secure those important documents for the nation.

David Cameron replied by praising Mr Turing and said he hoped that private donors would support the fundraising.

He said: "I am very happy to work with my honourable friend and do anything I can to make that happen."

It follows ongoing local campaigns to raise funds that will enable Bletchley Park buy back the papers from auction company, Christie's.

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Barrier up at danger hole

A HUGE hole was left unguarded for months – until it was cordoned off after an enquiry from MK NEWS.

The 5ft gap in the ground at the corner of Crosslands and Little Stanton, Stantonbury, was dug in spring for a public bench, but work was stopped after a water leak was discovered.

In July, Crosslands resident Vivian Lewis complained to ward councillor Barbara Wright that the hole was still gaping and a danger to pedestrians.

Since then, he has been fighting to get the hole fenced off or filled in, and got in touch with MK NEWS at the beginning of December, complaining it was now covered with leaves and hard to spot.

Ms Wright said she alerted the council to the problem, but the issue was taking time to resolve.

She added: "I like to see eveything happen particularly quickly, and sometimes it's frustrating that things take so long."

Since this paper called the council to raise the matter, a barrier has been erected around the hole.

Mr Lewis, 57, said: "It's amazing how quickly something was done after MK NEWS got involved."

A council spokesman said: "We did originally erect temporary safety fencing when the hole was dug, in anticipation of the bench being inserted, but this appears to have gone missing.

"We recently reinstated some fencing, largely because of the very severe weather problems.

"The work itself was delayed due to a leak found in the hole, and we are still awaiting the result of tests from Anglian Water before we decide how to proceed. But the site is now cordoned off."

Viv Lewis with the hole dug for a bench near his home in Stantonbury

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Barbara steps up to help shape the way ahead

A WEST Bletchley councillor has been elected onto the national committee of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Cllr Barbara Moore will sit on the committee, which represents town and parish councils with an electorate of more than 6,000 or have an annual budgeted income of over £250,000, plays a key role in formulating policy and developing support, information and training on behalf of NALC.

Her appointment will help to ensure that the views and experiences of West Bletchley and Milton Keynes as a whole are taken account of in the national debate on the future development of local councils.

Cllr Moore, who represents Denbigh North East Ward, said: "I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead and proving to the councils that voted for me, that they made the right choice."

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COMPETITION

Enjoy the 'Tardis' that is the Black Horse at Woburn

Win an invitation for 4 to the Black Horse New Year party

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Take the worry out of throwing the perfect midnight bash with our competition this week.

MK NEWS has teamed up with The Black Horse in Woburn to offer you and three friends the chance to party the night away.

Plum in the middle of Woburn village sits The Black Horse.

Its 18th century terraced frontage belies a Tardis-like interior in which the cosy bar leads to a warm and welcoming eatery, offering modern 'best of British' food and an exciting and varied wine list.

On December 31 they will be serving up a sumptuous buffet of delicious food washed down with a glass of fizz, before local performer Aisling Stephenson gets the party started with help from a fabulous DJ.

Why not take the hassle out of New Year's Eve this year and join them for a party to remember. Tickets cost £35 per person, so you need to book now to avoid disappointment.

for more information go to www.blackhorsewoburn.co.uk where you can book.

HOW TO ENTER

TO be in with a chance of winning four tickets, simply answer the following question:

Auld Lang Syne is traditionally sung on New Year's Eve. Who wrote the original poem?

Answers complete with name, address and daytime telephone number should be sent to competitions@mk-news.co.uk.

Editor's decision is final.

Closing date is Wednesday, December 29.

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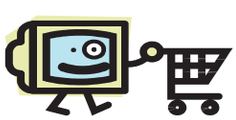

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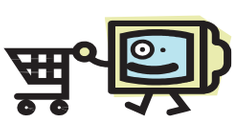

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Main Course

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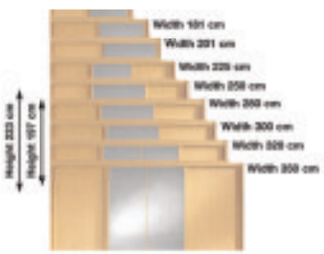

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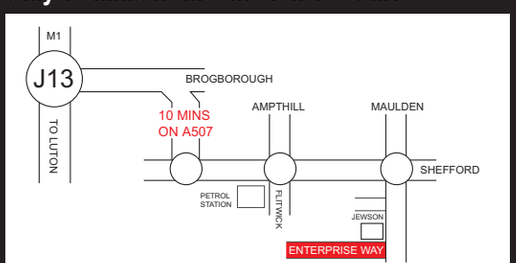

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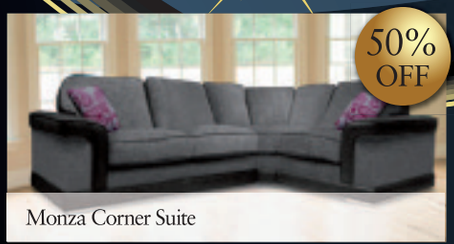

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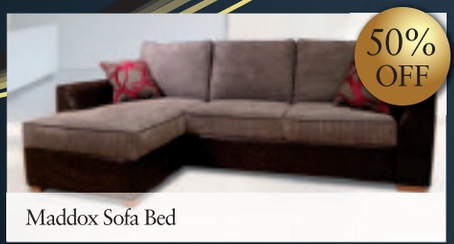

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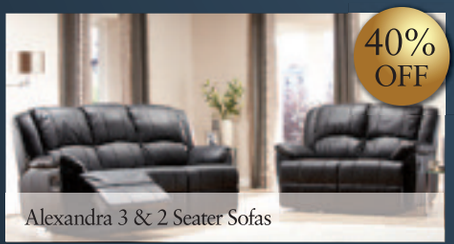

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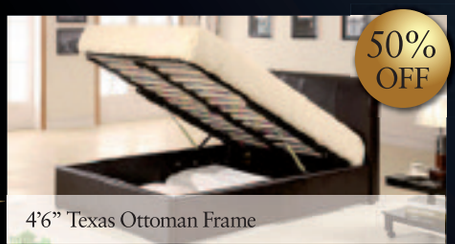

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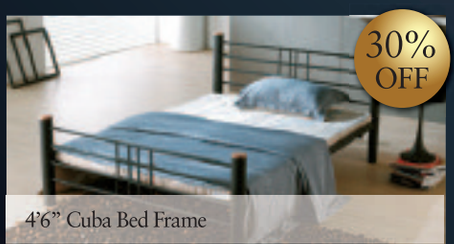

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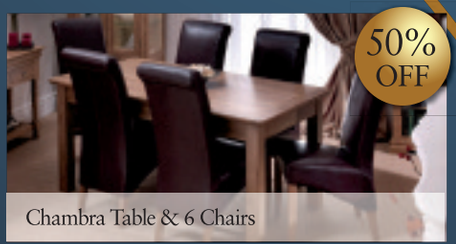

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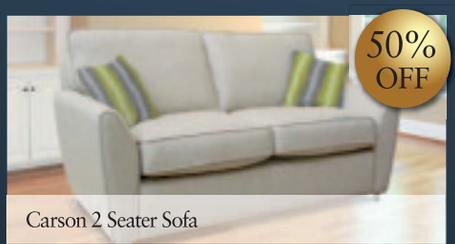

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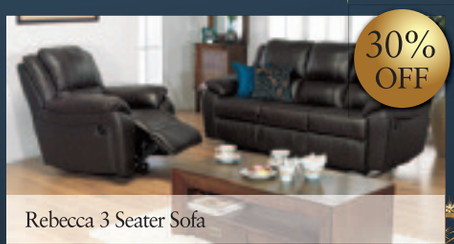

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MK LIFE

YOUR GUIDE TO LEISURE IN YOUR CITY

Joel Montague as Dick and Joanna Page as Alice Fitzwarren in Dick Whittington at MK Theatre – review page 24

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Love Teresa, Sav, Luke and Zak
xxxx

Deaths

Janice Claire Jones
Nee Thorpe

Beloved wife of Allan Jones and mother of Guy & Charlotte.

Passed away suddenly but peacefully in her sleep on Tuesday 14th December 2010.

The funeral service will take place at Crownhill Crematorium on Monday 10th January 2011 at 12 noon.

Donations are welcome for the RNLI, c/o H W Masons & Sons, 68a Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1DT, 561561.

Deaths

ROSEMARY JUNE KIRKBRIDE
Nee Brazier

Died suddenly in hospital on Sunday 12th December 2010

Aged 68 years

Devoted loving wife of Frank and a devoted loving mother to Karen and Tim. And to Deborah, Vincent, Stuart and Alex she was a devoted loving stepmother. She is much loved and missed by two grandsons ,two grand-daughters, six step-grandsons, one step-grand-daughter, and one step-great-grandson.

We will all miss her desperately.

The funeral will take place tomorrow Thursday 23rd of December at 11:30 a.m. at Olney Green Burial Site.

Family flowers only please. Donations may be made in aid of The Cat's Protection league, or The R.S.P.C.A. and can be sent to: A.L.&G Abbott, Funeral Directors, 150 Bedford Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8BH

MKLIFE | PANTOMIME REVIEW

MK THEATRE 0844 871 7652

'Comedy genius' Tucker as Idle Jack and 'simply hilarious' Graham Hoadly as Sarah The Cook

This hilarious hit for all the family is just panto magic

As MK Theatre's production of Dick Whittington took to the stage, MK NEWS reporter KIRSTEN RAWLINS went along to experience some of the panto magic

Just perfection: Dirk Benedict as King Rat

THIS year's panto Dick Whittington is a hilarious hit for all the family – oh yes it is!

Not having been to a pantomime for five years, I was more than a little dubious about what to expect – but it was truly fantastic.

On arrival, theatregoers are greeted by the sounds of a choir in Victorian attire, singing carols with the foyer boasting an enormous Christmas tree.

Taking our seats, the stage bursts into life and the magic begins.

American star of Battlestar Galactica and The A-Team, Dirk Benedict was fantastic.

He threw himself into the role of panto villain King Rat with off-beat rhyming, dancing and clowning around, just perfection.

This in conjuction with Tucker, whose performance as Idle Jack made the show a joy. Tucker is a comedy genius, whose mere facial expressions had the audience, young and old laughing in the aisles.

With all that said, this year's panto dame Sarah the Cook, played by Graham Hobday, certainly gave the stars of the cast a run for their money as he played the character of a cook with more an appetite for men, rather than food, wonderfully. Hoadly's performance was simply hilarious.

TV star Joanna Page's (Gavin and Stacey) role of Alice was delightful, as was her voice. She captured the character of the kind-hearted Alice Fitzwarren beautifully.

Her on stage chemistry with Dick, Joel Montague, was there for all to see and you could feel the panto-goers longing for them to reach the happy ending.

Montague's acting may have been a little wooden, at times, but his voice more than made up for this as he wooed not only Alice but the entire packed auditorium. So with all the fantastic characters slotted wonderfully into place it came as no surprise that within ten minutes I found myself joining in with the crowd, shouting and laughing along with the show.

By the end of the show I had more or less lost my voice, which meant I was able only to squeak rather than whoop at Stavros Flatley's fleet-footed performance that had me mesmerised.

It's not just the combination of colourful costumes, fine voices and precise choreography that makes this a fantastic night out but also the fact that the cast seemed to be enjoying themselves as much as the audience.

That mixed with a perfect balance of cheesey humour, music and our traditional participation means it is a show I would recommend for all the family.

I doubt I could have enjoyed it more had I been an eight-year-old girl armed with a fairy's wand and ice-cream on the front row.

Leisure or events news? e-mail **leisure@mk-news.co.uk**

MKLIFE | EXHIBITION | MUSIC REVIEW | EQUESTRIAN PANTO

SIMON DARNELL

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Coldplay

'CHRISTMAS night, another fight' – that's how Christmas Lights starts and really, mood-wise, it's all downhill from there.

Quite honestly, it might have Christmas in the title, but it's about as Christmassy as the World Cup.

You get two songs for the price of one thanks to the gearshift halfway through and, in fairness, that would represent incredible value for money if either of them were any good.

Instead, what we've got here are two regulation-issue Coldplay anthems glued together, neither of which sounds even remotely festive.

A soap opera disguised as a song, that's what this is.

4'33"

Cage Against The Machine

IF I was being clever, my review would consist solely of ' ' and nothing else.

If you've heard of 4'33", you'll know it doesn't have any music or lyrics, which in that respect makes it similar to a fair few songs I've heard down the years.

However, it is NOT silent instead the 'song' is the sound of wherever you are at the time.

That's a bit deep, isn't it?

Anyway, what it means is that for four minutes and thirty-three seconds you hear a group of famous musicians standing in a recording studio and doing very little aside from shuffling around a bit (at 1'47", somebody even dares to cough) and yet they still produce something far more worthwhile than anything Justin Bieber's done so far.

Incredible.

Not too keen on the applause at the end ('We stood around doing nothing for four and a half minutes! Yay for us!'), but no fewer than five charities are benefitting from the royalties, so fair play to all concerned.

And if it did get to No1, I wouldn't be complaining.

Why?

WHEN WE COLLIDE

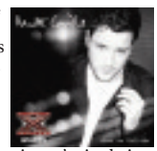
Matt Cardle

BECAUSE it'd mean that this missed out.

Hmmm, hang on, something's not right there. Let's fix it –

MANY OF HORROR

Matt Cardle



THAT'S better. Got to get the title right.

According to Louis Walsh, this is a 'great, contemporary pop song', which is a phrase that nobody outside of focus groups and music industry boardrooms EVER says.

Once again, the idea behind the winner's single is to take a recent hit single (a Biffy Clyro number this time), throw someone at it (Matt) and flog the result, regardless of quality.

It sounds like the rushed job I suspect it is and I very much doubt this is showcasing Mr Cardle at his best.

To think, people wonder why there are anti X-Factor campaigns every Christmas.

Still, let's not finish on a downer. Next week, it's Review Of The Year time again. Merry Christmas.

MK GALLERY 01908 767900

MK2MORROW: ONE SMALL STEP FOR MILTON KEYNES

Conceived by Black Dogs and presented by Lost & Found, MK Gallery's Young People's Project.

Until January 2

IN late September, astronomers discovered Gliese 581 g the extra-solar planet closest in size to Earth, with the greatest recognised potential for harbouring life.

Through a series of audience-generated and participative installations, whereby visitors consider which aspects of present day Milton Keynes would be retained, modified, fictionalised or forgotten when starting afresh.

The exhibition comprises three parts: The Pub at the End of the Universe, MK2 Survival Kit and Massive Tiny Space Colony.

The Pub at the End of the Universe is a replica of a 21st century 'theme pub' – what better environment could there be to share stories anecdotes, facts and fiction relating to Milton Keynes?

The MK2 Survival Kit gathers local skills and knowledge that will be passed on to future inhabitants of the planet Gliese 581 g. 'How To' cards have been contributed by the public so that the kit becomes a growing collection of DIY knowledge.

Finally, visitors are invited to play architect and city-planner via the audience generated Massive Tiny Space Colony installatio – a scale model of what the MK2 space colony might look like and the values it will uphold.

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Early closing at 4pm on December 24 and 31.

PANTO ON HORSEBACK

CHRISTMAS IN FANTASIA

Wychwood Stud, Salden, Mursley

December 26 - 29

FILM and television horse-stunt stars The Devil's Horsemen present this special equine panto.

The family-run stunt team, based in Mursley, has trained horses that have starred in everything from Spielberg-directed Hollywood blockbusters to Emmerdale, with their most famous steed being the silky-black stallion Dante, who people may remember from the Lloyds Bank adverts.

From Boxing Day, the team and their steeds present Christmas in Fantasia, in which the theft of Christmas must be stopped.

They will incorporate a host of equestrian acts, including the frenzied pace of trick riding, as they take on well-known pantomime characters and re-enact a story to delight people of all ages.

The original Devil's Horseman, famous stunt man Dan Neprous, plays the villain, while daughter Camilla, in addition to producing and directing, also displays her horsemanship skills.

One of Europe's leading horse masters Gerard will be playing the part of Santa Claus, while as a highlight, Dante will also be making a special guest star appearance. Tickets are £15 adults, £10 under 12s or £45 families. For more information call 01296 720194, or visit www.thedevilshorsemen.com

Dan Naprous on his magnificent black stallion Dante

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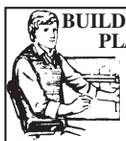

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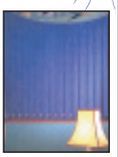
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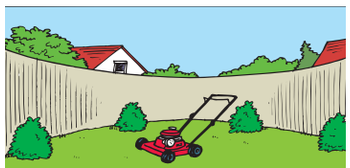

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Public Notices

Milton Keynes Council Standards Committee Complaint SC/09/03
Councillor Patrick McQuillan
Finding of no breach of the Code of Conduct

Under section 17(1) (a) Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 the Standards Committee (Consideration Sub Committee) of Milton Keynes Council meeting on 12th October 2010 has found that there has been no failure of Councillor Patrick McQuillan to comply with the Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council Code of Conduct in respect of complaint SC/09/03.

The complaint concerned the actions of Councillor Patrick McQuillan of Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council allegedly behaving improperly in relation to his involvement in a staffing issue.

The Standards Committee Consideration Sub-Committee agreed with the findings in the Investigating Officers report that a reasonable person, in the knowledge of the facts would conclude that;

a) Councillor McQuillan has NOT breached the paragraphs 8, 9, 10 or 11 Code (personal or prejudicial interests)
b) Councillor McQuillan has NOT breached paragraph 6 (a) of the Code (Improper advantage or disadvantage)
c) Councillor McQuillan has NOT breached paragraph 3 of the Code (bullying)
d) Councillor McQuillan has NOT breached paragraph 3 of the Code (Respect)
e) Councillor McQuillan has NOT breached paragraph 6 (a) of the Code (Improper advantage or disadvantage)
f) Cllr McQuillan has NOT breached paragraph 5 of the Code (disrepute)

Milton Keynes Council Standards Committee Complaint SC/09/04
Councillor Tony Mabbott
Finding of no breach of the Code of Conduct

Under section 17(1) (a) Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 the Standards Committee (Consideration Sub Committee) of Milton Keynes Council meeting on 12th October 2010 has found that there has been no failure of Councillor Tony Mabbott to comply with the West Bletchley Council Code of Conduct in respect of complaint SC/09/04.

The complaint concerned Councillor Mabbott allegedly making a number of allegations that undermined West Bletchley Council staff and constituted bullying and not failure to treat others with respect.

Evidence considered in the course of the investigation concluded that, in respect of these allegations, Cllr Mabbott was legitimately challenging council policy and process. There was no evidence of any comment on individual members of staff and there was no evidence that Cllr Mabbott had gone beyond behaviour that might be expected of any Councillor.

The investigation has found that Cllr Mabbott;
- did not breach paragraph 3(1) of the Code of Conduct (you must treat others with respect)
- did not breach paragraph 3(2)(b) of the Code of Conduct (you must not bully any person)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M1 Motorway in the Borough of Milton Keynes to allow for carriageway resurfacing and road marking works to be carried out in safety.

The works are expected to take place over 1 night (09:00pm to 05:00am Monday - Thursday) starting on, or after, Monday 17 January 2011.

The effect of the Order would be to close the southbound entry slip road at Junction 14 of the M1, diverting traffic northbound to Junction 15, here to exit and then join the southbound carriageway back to Junction 14 and continue on their journey.

The closure (which would not apply to works vehicles) and diversion route would be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the works.

The Order would come into force on 11 January 2011 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months.

Mrs A V Middleton, An official of the Highways Agency

General Enquiries relating to this notice may be made in writing to Nick Cook at the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Manton Industrial Estate, Bedford MK41 7LW or by telephoning 01234 796040

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PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8 and/or PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER SECTION 67 OR 73

The following applications for Planning Permission, Listed Building Consent and/or Conservation Area Consent have been received and may be inspected at Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ during normal office hours.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to me at the above address quoting the application number/s, within 21 days of the date of publication of the notice. Comments should be restricted to valid planning considerations such as effect on amenity, privacy, noise, traffic, access etc. All letters received are open to public inspection and so cannot be treated in confidence.

Most simple and straightforward applications are delegated to me to decide but, when the application is determined by the Council's Development Management Committee, you may make your views known by speaking at the Committee meeting. Should the application/s on which you wish to comment be one/s which will be determined by the Development Management Committee and if you wish to present your views in person to the Committee as well as in writing, please say so clearly in your representations and I will send you details of how to proceed as soon as the Committee date is known.

Assistant Director - Development Management
19-December-2010

APPLICATION NO:	CB/10/04370/VOC Affects Conservation Area
PROPOSAL:	Variation of condition 8 of planning permission SB/08/00731 (to change minimum access width of 4.1m)
LOCATION:	10 Bedford Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4JU
APPLICATION NO:	CB/10/04405/LB Affects Listed Building or its Setting
PROPOSAL:	Installation of a pair of metal handrails either side of the existing steps from the upper south terrace to the lower south terrace of the Luton Hoo mansion.
LOCATION:	Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf and Spa, Luton Hoo Estate, Hyde, Luton
APPLICATION NO:	CB/10/04414/FULL Affects Conservation Area
PROPOSAL:	Erection of three bedroom detached dwelling
LOCATION:	Land adjacent to 4 Park Farm Cottages, Northall Road, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, LU6 2DQ
APPLICATION NO:	CB/10/04454/FULL Affects Conservation Area
PROPOSAL:	Loft conversion and installation of roof lights
LOCATION:	Chequers House, The Green, Whipsnade, Dunstable, LU6 2LL
APPLICATION NO:	CB/10/04483/FULL Affects Conservation Area
PROPOSAL:	Erection of single storey rear and side extensions.
LOCATION:	3 Clarkes Pightle, Bedford Road, Barton-le-Clay, Bedford, MK45 4JW

LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given that Irshad Ahmed has applied to THE LICENSING AUTHORITY AT MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL for a PREMISES LICENCE at 600 Elder House, Elder Gate, CMK.

The following licensable activities are proposed during the following times:

Late Night Refreshment
Monday to Saturday 23:00 - 05:00
Sunday 23:00 - 03:00

Full details of the application can be viewed via The Licensing Register at the Civic Offices of the Council. This is accessible Mondays to Thursday between the hours 9am to 5pm, and Fridays 9am to 4pm (excluding bank holidays) or online at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/licensing.

Any interested party (such as a resident or local business) or responsible authority wishing to make representations either against or in support of the application must do so in writing by 14th January 2011 to the following address: Licensing Team, Environment Directorate, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ, 01908 252800, e-mail: licensing@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Representations received in response to this review will ordinarily be made available for public inspection, including disclosure to the applicant and any relevant responsible authorities unless agreed otherwise. Representations must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives (namely crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety, or protection of children from harm.) Individuals making a representation must live in the vicinity of the premise.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine of £5,000 is liable on summary conviction for the offence.

Dated this 17th day of December 2010

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACTS
REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2010/11

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that a revised version of the full Register of Electors for Central Bedfordshire has been published and is available for inspection under supervision during office hours at Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford Beds SG17 5TQ.

The edited Register which leaves out the names and addresses of people who have asked for their names to be excluded from that version of the Register is also available for inspection and may be copied or bought by any person to be used for any purpose.

A person inspecting the full Register and who makes copies of any part of it or records any particulars included in it otherwise than by means of hand written notes shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000.

RICHARD CARR
Electoral Registration Officer
Priory House, Monks Walk
Chicksands, Shefford
Beds SG17 5TQ

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

Proposed development at Bletchley Landfill Site, Bletchley Road, Bletchley.

I give notice that Waste Recycling Group Ltd is applying to vary condition 1 of planning permission 09/20001/AWD (dated 21st April 2009) in order to amend the permitted layout of the site.

Members of the public may view;

• the application

• the plans

• the other documents submitted with it

at the offices of Aylesbury Vale District Council, 66 High Street, Aylesbury or at County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury during normal office hours until 10th January 2011. It is also available to view on http://bucksplanning.buckscc.gov.uk/publicaccesslive/

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this submission should write to Planning Development Control, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UY E-mail dcplanning@buckscc.gov.uk or Minicom 18002 01296 387851 quoting reference number 10/20007/AWD by 10th January 2011.

The case officer for this application is Emily Catcheside, Tel 01296 383348.

In the Milton Keynes County Court No. 86 of 2010
(formerly in the High Court of Justice No. 6802 of 2008)
BRIAN PHILLIP BROWN
In Bankruptcy
Currently a Builder of 82 Pennycress Way Newport Pagnell Buckinghamshire MK16 8TT

In the matter of Rule 11.2 of The Insolvency Rules 1986. As it is my intention to declare a first and final dividend to all creditors within a period of four months from 31/01/2011, Notice is hereby given that the Creditors of the above-named Estate in Bankruptcy are required on or before 31/01/2011, to send in their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to me the undersigned, Phillip Anthony Roberts, of Sterling Ford, Shelton House 4 High Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8RB, the Trustee of the said estate and, if so required by notice in writing from me, the said Trustee in Bankruptcy, are personally or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and places as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Dated: 10/12/2010
PHILLIP ANTHONY ROBERTS,
Trustee in Bankruptcy

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ELEGANT stylish blonde widow, young 59, very good company, looking for attractive, cultured, older male to share interests, good conversation and who knows. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 353455**

DOWN to earth, slim brunette, curves in all the right places, looking for easygoing, fun guy for some relaxed fun times. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 353415**

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HAPPY go lucky slim blue eyed brunette seeks charming likeminded guy who would like to share good times with a cool relaxing glass of wine. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 345699**

FEMALE attractive, outgoing with blonde spiky hair, green eyes, lonely romantic and in need of some male company. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 349927**

ALISON 40, stunning, busty and fun looking for someone outgoing and broadminded who would like to share lazy lunches, good times and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 346813**

PAM naturally sexy, very feminine, seeks calm, manly male to share relaxing nights in with good wine, great company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 346815**

FIONA beautiful, seductive blonde nurse with no ties, looking to raise the temperature of a discreet, experienced, confident guy. Can accommodate Mr. Wonderful. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 342501**

CURVY blue eyed blonde who just wants to have a good time with no complications WLTM likeminded guy. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 347127**

OUTGOING blonde, 29, big blue eyes, great personality, fun to be with, WLTM intelligent mature male for a loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 353661**

GORGEOUS girl, 39, independent, lively and just that bit different, loves live music, the outdoors, looking for new adventures with confident, unconventional guy. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 342483**

SLIM blue eyed brunette, 48, loving and kind, hopeless romantic, likes pubs, nights in/out seeks similar romantic male to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 353461**

TRACY 35, voluptuous, fun loving, romantic and sensual seeks carefree male looking for that someone special for uncomplicated fun times. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 342477**

MICHELLE 39, blue eyed blonde bombshell, beautiful curves, discreet, enjoys male company, seeks romantic male who likes the simple things in life too. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 341289**

KELLY 29, beautiful, sexy, brunette with lovely curves seeks sincere, attractive male for fun nights out, cosy nights in, TLC, romance and more. **Tel No: 0906 199 8100 Box No: 342505**

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04 (54)	MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC 5dr, met silver, 98k, 2 owners, history, e/w, c/l, a/c, alloys, vgc	£2495
01 (Y)	FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5dr, met silver, 2 owners, 70k, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, CD, MoT vgc	£1695
05 (55)	FOCUS 1.6 FLIGHT 5dr, met grey, 1 owenr, only 25,000 miles, history, PAS, e/w, c/l, a/c, ABS, CD, MoT, tax, vgc	£3995
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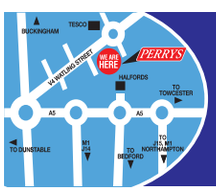

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Ice hockey beaten by the big freeze

A FROZEN pitch at stadiummk put paid to any football last weekend.

The Dons were due to entertain Paul Dickov's Oldham Athletic on Saturday, but a pitch inspection was held at 9.20am and the surface was deemed unplayable.

All tickets purchased for the original fixture will be valid for the rearranged game, though refunds will be available from the MK Dons Box Office at stadiummk.

A date for the rearranged fixture has not yet been announced.

■ Even ice hockey could not beat the freezing conditions over the weekend as MK Lightning had both of their matches postponed.

On Saturday their visitors Manchester Phoenix were unable to complete their journey to Milton Keynes, and on Sunday their trip to Bracknell Bees was postponed due to health and safety concerns surrounding the venue.

Speaking about the postponement of the Manchester match at Planet Ice, MK Lightning general manager Vito Rausa said: "Our games against Manchester are always exciting, and it's also disappointing to have to postpone our last home game before Christmas.

"But I know that everyone will understand that the safety of the Phoenix team and of both sets of supporters is more important – we'll let everyone know as soon as we're able to reschedule."

Lightning are due to be back in action on Thursday, December 30 at home to Swindon Wildcats. Face-off 7.30pm.

■ Rugby was also hit – Olney's home match against Reading Abbey at Doff's Field was called off due to the freezing conditions.

Olney are due to be back in action after Christmas.

Their next game is scheduled for January, 8 when they are set to travel to Swanage and Wareham, on the same day Bletchley will host Maidenhead at Manor Fields.

UP-COMING DONS GAMES

LEYTON ORIENT

League One
Sunday, December 26
Brisbane Road KO 1pm

IF this fixture beats the big freeze a Boxing Day trip to London awaits MK Dons.

Should the game go ahead the Dons will fancy their chances at getting back to winning ways.

They have not won since the 2-0 victory at Brentford on November, 13, but they have had three weekends without football.

Last season the Dons took six points from the O's who currently find themselves in 16th place, and two points behind the Dons, in the League One table.

Visit www.mk-news.co.uk to stay up to date with news on the game.

BOURNEMOUTH

League One
Tuesday, December 28
stadiummk KO 3pm

WHEN these two sides met earlier in the season it was billed as the battle of the youngest managers in the Football League, and on that day it was Eddie Howe who walked away the happier boss thanks to a 3-2 victory.

Karl Robinson will be hoping for a different outcome when the Cherries visit stadiummk. It will be the first game the Dons have played at home since losing 4-1 to Sheffield Wednesday five weeks ago.

Bournemouth are riding high in League One in fifth place and just six points off the top of the table.

LEAGUE ONE TABLE

		P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Brighton	19	6	3	0	17	7	4	3	3	14	8	16	36
2	Sheff Wed	21	6	2	3	16	7	4	1	5	18	14	13	33
3	Huddersfield	19	6	2	2	18	9	4	0	5	13	12	10	32
4	Charlton	19	5	3	2	11	11	4	2	3	20	14	6	32
5	Bournemouth	19	7	1	2	25	9	1	5	3	11	12	15	30
6	Colchester	19	4	5	2	16	16	3	4	1	9	7	2	30
7	Oldham	18	4	5	0	15	8	3	3	3	12	13	6	29
8	Peterborough	19	6	1	3	26	23	3	1	5	12	17	-2	29
9	Exeter	20	5	3	1	20	13	3	2	6	12	21	-2	29
10	Southampton	19	5	3	3	15	8	3	1	4	11	10	8	28
11	Brentford	19	3	2	4	9	13	5	2	3	14	8	2	28
12	Carlisle	19	5	3	3	16	11	2	3	3	10	9	6	27
13	Hartlepool	18	3	2	3	13	18	4	3	3	8	6	-3	26
14	MK Dons	19	6	2	1	14	9	2	0	8	11	23	-7	26
15	Plymouth	19	5	2	4	16	16	2	2	4	9	13	-4	25
16	Leyton Orient	19	4	2	2	11	8	2	4	5	16	18	1	24
17	Swindon	19	5	2	3	14	14	1	4	4	16	19	-3	24
18	Rochdale	19	3	4	2	15	12	2	3	5	12	14	1	22
19	Notts County	18	6	0	4	14	11	1	1	6	9	17	-5	22
20	Tranmere	19	3	2	5	10	15	3	2	4	10	13	-8	22
21	Bristol Rovers	19	3	2	3	7	12	2	5	4	16	22	-11	22
22	Dag & Red	19	2	4	2	9	10	2	2	7	12	22	-11	18
23	Walsall	19	3	0	6	10	16	2	2	6	8	16	-14	17
24	Yeovil	19	2	2	4	11	16	2	2	7	9	20	-16	16

Woburn pro Poulter in BBC team of the year

IAN Poulter and his Ryder Cup team mates have been recognised for their superb win over the USA in October.

The victorious European side were crowned Team of the Year at the Sports Personality of the Year awards in Birmingham on Sunday night.

Woburn golf professional Poulter was one of four European players who won their singles matches to help the side to a spectacular success at Celtic Manor.

Although not in attendance Poulter was keeping up to date with events throughout the night via his social networking site on Twitter.

Poulter wrote on his Twitter page: "Just heard we have won team of the year award at spotty (sic) cheers everybody good work Ryder Cup team."

But the news that Tony (AP) McCoy clinched the overall award and that his Ryder Cup teammates Graeme McDowell and Lee Westwood, who were both in the short-list of ten, had not made the top three was not well received by Poulter.

Frustrated by McCoy and Phil 'The Power' Taylor taking the top two respectively Poulter said: "Darts comes second in the BBC Spoty voting get a grip. Congrats to AP. Great sportsman and a gent but wasn't my choice."

Ian Poulter holds the Ryder Cup after the success at Celtic Manor

Funding cut sees badminton focus cash on Olympics

BADMINTON has had its funding cut in the UK Sport's annual investment review due to its current 'performance profile'.

UK Sport have confirmed the award over the final two years of the current cycle reflects a reduction in the number of podium funded athlete places from 11 to six.

However, the outcome was positive in its support for future potential with an increase in the number of development funded places from 23 to 24.

The £541,700 reduction in funding over the final two years of the current programme equates to a 14 per cent decrease (from a budget of £3.9m to £3.4m).

Adrian Christy, chief executive of Badminton England, who are based at Loughton Lodge, accepts that the cuts are a consequence of being in a results-driven environment, evidenced by failure to get a GB player or pair into the quarter-finals at the World Championships in August.

Adrian Christy: We will target our resources exclusively on medal potential for 2012

But Christy is now determined that GB Badminton build on the three bronze medals England won at the European Individual Championships this year and the five medals achieved by England at the Commonwealth Games.

As well as targeting podium places in 2012, he plans to develop the medal potential of the players who can make an impact in 2016.

To that end a strategic review of the 2012 and 2016 programmes is under way and is due to be presented in March, ahead of the start of the year-long Olympic qualification programme for London 2012.

He said: "Whilst the outcome of the investment review is disappointing, we believe it is a fair reflection on recent world level performances overall. Of course we all hope we can maximise qualification in 2012 and deliver medal performances, but we are also aware of the critical opportunity to focus this investment on the future and the group of tremendous young talent we have.

"We will therefore target our resources exclusively on medal potential for 2012, and those where the London Games will be a fabulous learning experience as they look for podium places in 2016.

For 2012, GB Badminton have also decided that, in order to maximise the opportunity of their two most experienced and successful senior players, Nathan Robertson and Anthony Clark will no longer play men's doubles together so as to concentrate on one discipline.

Robertson will focus on his successful partnership with Jenny Wallwork in mixed doubles while Clark will now forge a new men's doubles partnership with Chris Langridge.

MKSPORT

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Christy on badminton funding – Page 35

Limp Lions on the wrong end of 25-point thrashing

MK LIONS 87 — Myers 20, Gardner 16, Nelson 15

CHESHIRE JETS 112 — Bell 31, O'Reilly 23, Murray 16

BY SIMONE CORGAN
simone.corgan@mk-news.co.uk

FREEZING temperatures could not stop the red-hot Cheshire Jets inflicting a heavy defeat on MK Lions.

Cheshire Jets were put up in a hotel on Saturday night to ensure Sunday's game would go ahead, but Lions must have been wishing they had not gone to such efforts as they were handed a 25 point thrashing by their opponents.

Lions, who had their match against Worcester Wolves postponed on Saturday, were caught cold when Jets stormed to an 11-2 lead within three minutes and Lions fans hoping to warm their hands by way of some applause for the home side, found cheer in short supply as they trailed 34-21 at the end of the first period.

But Lions failed to learn their lesson and were once again punished for a slow start to the second period when Cheshire Jets took full advantage by adding ten points to the score which in turn extended their lead to a commanding 44-23.

Lions, who have only recorded two wins in the British Basketball League this season, were one dimensional, lacked threat across the court and, to add to their misery, were unable to net the rebounds needed.

Mike New's side were left to limp into the dressing room at half-time with a huge 53-27 deficit to overturn in only their second game at their Winterhill home.

Colin O'Reilly ensured Lions couldn't find the rapid fire start they needed at the start of the second half as he scored eight straight points for the visitors as they broke the 30 point margin at 69-38.

And Jets refused to let complacency creep in to their game as they nailed a flurry of three-pointers in the final stanza, while Lions' hopes of clawing the score to a respectable reading fell apart when they lost their discipline late on.

■ AN MK Lions coach, Lance Haggith, was honoured at Sunday night's BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards when he took home the 'Unsung Hero' gong.

The 50-year-old impressed the judges with his dedication to coaching, choosing him as the overall winner from the 15 regional winners across the UK.

Haggith has been working with children and young people of all abilities to provide support through basketball coaching for the last 30 years.

Chester Jets' Jason Killeen blocks a Jelani Gardner effort

Two wins on wish list for Dons boss

ALL MK Dons want for Christmas is six points.

A festive double header will see the Dons travel to Leyton Orient on Boxing Day then host Bristol Rovers two days later at stadiummk.

The big freeze means the Dons will have played only once in 33 days when the Orient fixture kicks off and Karl Robinson's team are now 14th in the League One table – four points adrift of the play-offs, and four points clear of the relegation zone.

Two wins would boost their hopes of clinching a top six spot, and give the side momentum heading in to the New Year.

"I only look up never down," Robinson said, "my head is always up, never down and I never look backwards. Our aim remains the same – to reach the play-offs. I won't hide from the fact that the results haven't been great of late but the performances – aside from the second half against Sheffield Wednesday and the Huddersfield game – haven't been too bad."

The snow has caused havoc for the club, their match against Oldham was postponed on Saturday, and the team's training regime has involved runs around Willen Lake and long sessions in the gym.

But now the Dons face their busiest spell of the season so far with five games in 14 days over the festive period.

Robinson, whose father-in-law recently passed away, will return to Liverpool on Christmas Eve to spend Christmas morning with his family before returning to MK for the trip to Orient on Sunday.

And there is only one thing Robbo wants for Christmas: "If we could get six points I'd be over the moon with that. I'd also like to wish our fans a happy Christmas, I hope they enjoy spending time with their families, and hopefully we can reward them with two wins."

Aaron Wilbraham is suspended for the trip to Brisbane Road, and Sam Baldock could face a late fitness test.

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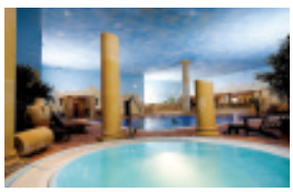

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